United Nations A/62/7/Add.37

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 March 2008

Original: English

**Sixty-second session**
Agenda item 128
**Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009**

# Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives, authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

## Thirty-eighth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

## I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/62/512/Add.6). The report contains the proposed resource requirements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008 for five special political missions, namely, the Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)-affected areas, the United Nations Representative for the International Advisory and Monitoring Board, the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo and the revised budgets for 2008 for the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Committee recalls that, in its resolution 62/238, the General Assembly approved an overall provision of $403,910,100 for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. This reflected a reduction of $200,150,000 to the amount of $604,060,100 proposed for the biennium 2008-2009 (see General Assembly resolution 62/238, sect. V, para. 16). The General Assembly also approved the budgets of the 26 special political missions presented in the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512) for a total of $386,587,300 for the period ending 31 December 2008. The remaining unallocated balance in the provision for special political missions for 2008-2009 therefore amounts to $17,322,800.

3. The Secretary-General is proposing additional requirements for 2008 in the amount of $56,652,000 gross for the five missions indicated in paragraph 1 above. Given the balance in the provision under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 of $17,322,800, following the decisions of the General Assembly in its resolution 62/238 (see para. 2 above), the Secretary-General is proposing, in accordance with the procedures provided for in General Assembly resolution 41/213, additional appropriations of $34,528,100 under section 3, Political affairs, and of $4,801,100 under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

4. **The Committee recalls the comments and recommendations made in its report on the estimates in respect of special political mission, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/62/7/Add.29), as well as in its report on the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs (A/62/7/Add.32). In particular, the Committee re-emphasizes the need to consider the distinctive roles and responsibilities of all departments of the Secretariat, regional commissions, United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other relevant actors of the United Nations system, including the country teams, and the need to improve coordination among them in order to achieve efficiencies and/or savings.**

5. **The Committee's comments and recommendations on the requirements for the five special political missions presented in the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512/Add.6) are set out in sections II to VII below.**

# II. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas

## A. Mandate and planned results

6. The report of the Secretary-General provides the background and evolution of the activities of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas (A/62/512/Add.6, paras. 2-8). The Committee notes that the Secretary-General, in a letter dated 21 November 2007, informed the Security Council of his proposal to extend the mandate of the temporary Liaison Office of his Special Envoy until 31 December 2008 and to upgrade the Office to a special political mission, given the continuation of the peace talks in the course of 2008 and the issues remaining to be discussed in the related peace process (S/2007/719). The President of the Security Council, in his reply dated 6 December 2007 (S/2007/720), informed the Secretary-General that the Council had taken note of his proposals.

7. The Committee was informed that talks had resumed on 31 January 2008 and that progress had been achieved following intense negotiations, which concluded in the signature of several key agreements that will require the support of the United Nations. The Committee was also informed that the parties were to reconvene in March 2008 and that the Final Peace Agreement was expected to be signed thereafter. Furthermore, the Department of Political Affairs is consulting other

Secretariat departments and United Nations agencies with a view to ensuring a coherent approach to the Organization's role in the implementation period.

8. The Committee notes that the Special Envoy and his staff consult closely with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), at the head of mission and working levels, on matters involving LRA activities in the region, and that, within their current mandates and capabilities, both missions also provide logistics and security support to the Office of the Special Envoy (A/62/512/Add.6, para. 8).

## B. Resource requirements

9. The requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy, for a one-year period ending 31 December 2008, are estimated at $2,536,600 net ($2,738,400 gross). The Committee notes that, in 2007, the requirements of the Special Envoy were funded under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 60/249 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2006-2007. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512/Add.6), the resources for the functioning of the Office in 2007 amounted to $746,300. The increase in these requirements reflect the renewal and extension of the mandate of the Office of the Special Envoy for a full year, its establishment as a special political mission, and the strengthening proposed in order to allow for continued engagement in the peace process.

### 1. Civilian personnel

| *Positions* | *Number* | *Level* |
|---|---|---|
| Approved initial positions for 2007[a] | NA | |
| Vacant positions as at 29 February 2008 | NA | |
| Proposed positions for 2008 | 10 | 1 USG; 1 D-1; 2 P-5; 1 P-4; 1 P-3; 1 FS; 1 GS; 2 LL |
| New positions | 10 | 1 USG; 1 D-1; 2 P-5; 1 P-4; 1 P-3; 1 FS; 1 GS; 2 LL |
| Abolitions | — | — |
| Redeployments | — | — |
| Reclassifications | — | — |

[a] In 2007, requirements were funded under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 60/249 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

### 2. Comments and recommendations on positions

10. The civilian personnel costs of $1,471,000 provide for a proposed staffing component of 10 civilian staff (8 international and 2 national positions). A 10 per

cent vacancy factor has been applied to the staffing costs. The Committee notes that the Special Envoy acts as the Head of Mission, and that the position, at the Under-Secretary-General level, is budgeted on a when-actually-employed basis for nine months, which is the maximum per year for such contracts. The other positions proposed, described in paragraphs 14 to 22 of the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512/Add.6), can be summarized as follows:

(a) A D-1 position for the Head of the Kampala Liaison Office to oversee and coordinate analysis and reporting on developments in the region related to the peace process, and to represent the Special Envoy at the highest levels, where appropriate, in addition to overseeing the functioning of the office and its staff;

(b) A P-5 position for a Senior Political Adviser to provide advice and support to the Special Envoy in support of his activities in the region, as well as all relevant activities at Headquarters and the United Nations system;

(c) A P-5 position for a Senior Military Adviser to ensure the Special Envoy is fully informed of the surrounding military and security issues and to provide advice on the ceasefire agreement and security-related aspects of the peace process, liaising with military components of MONUC, UNMIS and other relevant counterparts in the region;

(d) A P-4 position for a Legal Affairs Officer to provide legal advice to the Special Envoy on all aspects of the mandate, issues of constitutional and other national laws as they affect the political process, and all issues relating to the Juba peace process, the agreement on accountability and reconciliation and the implementation of the programme;

(e) A P-3 position for a Political Affairs Officer to assist the Head of Office in the efforts to monitor and analyse developments in the country and the region related to the peace process and LRA activities;

(f) A Field Service position for an Administrative/Finance Officer to provide administrative and logistical support to the substantive office operations in cooperation with MONUC, UNMIS and the Department of Field Support;

(g) A General Service (Other level) position for an Administrative Assistant;

(h) Two positions (Local level) for an Administrative/Office Assistant and a Driver.

11. The Committee was informed that, given the resumption of the talks in January 2008, the positions of the Military Adviser and the Senior Political Adviser were currently being funded through the procedures for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. **In order to support the efforts of the Special Envoy in facilitating the negotiations and supporting the implementation of the peace agreement during this critical phase, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the positions proposed for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General.**

### 3. Operational costs

12. Requirements for operational costs for 2008 are estimated at $1,065,500. The proposed resources include an amount of $241,900 for non-recurrent costs in order to provide for the acquisition of five 4x4 vehicles ($120,800); the acquisition of

materiel under facilities and infrastructure, such as a generator, air-conditioning equipment, office furniture and equipment, and fire extinguishers ($75,000); information technology equipment ($27,600); and communications equipment ($18,500).

13. The Committee notes that the Special Envoy's Office in Kampala is hosted by the MONUC liaison office. A decision was made to co-locate with MONUC in Kampala to facilitate cooperation and for purposes of cost-effectiveness. The Unit of the Special Envoy in Juba is also located with UNMIS so as to mitigate expenses related to the premises and other equipment, such as for IT equipment, office furniture and security.

14. The Committee also notes that the budget includes a provision of $293,800 for air transportation for the rental and related costs of fixed-wing aircraft. The Committee was informed that the rental of aircraft was necessary owing to the unreliability of commercial airline connections and the infrequency of flights in the subregion, which could disrupt the Special Envoy's ability to consult in a timely fashion.

15. **The Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.**

## III. United Nations Representative for the International Advisory and Monitoring Board

16. The Committee notes that the Security Council most recently extended the mandate of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board until 31 December 2008 (see Security Council resolution 1790 (2007)).

17. The resource requirements proposed for the United Nations Representative to the Board, for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008, are estimated at $64,600. This would provide for the official travel of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his alternates/advisers to the meetings of the Board ($42,600) and the resources for the hosting of one meeting in New York ($22,000) (A/62/512/Add.6, para. 27). The Board is expected to hold three meetings in 2008 (Washington, D.C., Amman and New York).

18. The Committee was informed that the Controller would perform the functions of representative of the Secretary-General to the Board for 2008, which resulted in a decrease of $97,900 as compared to the resources approved for 2007. The Committee recalls that the requirements for 2007 provided for the salaries and common staff costs of the representative of the Secretary-General on a when-actually-employed basis for a maximum of 80 days and of a Special Assistant (P-4 level) for six months in 2007 (A/61/640/Add.1, para. 22). **The Committee recommends approval of the resources proposed for the International Advisory and Monitoring Board.**

# IV. United Nations Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo

## A. Mandate and planned results

19. In paragraphs 28 to 38 of his report (A/62/512/Add.6), the Secretary-General provides information on the background, mandate, evolution and status of the activities of the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo.

20. The Committee notes that the presentation contained in the Secretary-General's report has been overtaken by recent events, which occurred after the budget was prepared. The Committee notes that the Secretary-General had indicated that since it was unclear where the developments in the status process would lead, the Office intended to maintain a minimum number of staff for the period 1 January to 31 March 2008 to represent the United Nations in any talks, and would clarify and provide advice and clarification on the settlement proposal and/or on its elements as required, followed by one month for the liquidation of the mission (A/62/512/Add.6, para. 38).

## B. Resource requirements

21. The requirements for the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo of $620,800 net ($707,100 gross), contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512/Add.6), provide for a three-month operational budget for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2008 ($566,400) and a one-month liquidation budget for the period from 1 to 30 April 2008 ($54,400). The requirements for 2007 amounted to $6,727,700. The decrease of $6,106,900 in the resources proposed reflects the abbreviated period for operation and liquidation planned for 2008.

### 1. Civilian personnel

| *Positions* | *Number* | *Level* |
|---|---|---|
| Approved initial positions for 2007 | 53 | 1 USG; 1 ASG; 4 D-1; 3 P-5; 4 P-4; 5 P-3; 19 FS; 16 GS |
| Vacant positions as at 29 February 2008 | NA | |
| Proposed positions for 2008 | 11[a] | 1 USG; 1 ASG; 2 D-1; 1 P-5; 1 P-4; 5 GS |
| New positions | — | — |
| Abolitions | 42 | 2 D-1; 2 P-5; 3 P-4; 5 P-3; 19 FS; 11 GS |
| Redeployments | — | — |
| Reclassifications | — | — |

[a] Three of these positions (1 P-5 and 2 GS (OL)) are anticipated to remain from 1 to 30 April 2008, as a mission liquidation team.

**2. Comments and recommendations on positions**

22. The proposed civilian personnel costs of $409,100, as compared to the amount of $4,680,400 approved for 2007, reflect the reduction of 42 positions to a total of 11 positions, shown in the table above, for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2008. Three of these positions (1 P-5 and 2 General Service (Other level) positions) are anticipated to remain for an additional one-month period, until 30 April 2008, to carry out the liquidation tasks of the mission. **The Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposals.**

**3. Operational costs**

23. The proposed requirements for operational costs of $211,700 reflect a decrease of $1,835,600 compared to the resources approved for 2007. This is mostly due to the reduction in the number of staff and operational resources required for the shorter period of operation and liquidation in 2008 that is now envisaged (see para. 21 above). The Committee sought clarification as to the requirements for air transportation ($11,500), and was informed that no trips have been made to Kosovo during the January-February period and none are planned in March in view of the absence of further guidance from the Security Council on the way forward regarding Kosovo. The Committee was informed that it was planned that two staff members of the Office would visit Kosovo from 11 to 16 March to consult with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo on issues related to closure of the Office.

24. The Committee notes from paragraph 33 of the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512/Add.6) that the host country will continue to provide office accommodation until the Office ends its operations. The Committee was informed that the memorandum of understanding between the Office and the United Nations Office at Vienna/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is open-ended and, as such, valid until the Office ceases to exist.

25. The Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposed resources for the operational costs of the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo.

# V. United Nations Mission in Nepal

## A. Mandate and planned results

26. The Committee recalls that, in its resolution 1740 (2007), the Security Council decided to establish the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) for a 12-month period; its mandate is described in paragraph 47 of the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512/Add.6). The Committee notes that developments in 2007 twice led to the postponement of the elections for the Constituent Assembly in July and November. However, an agreement signed on 23 December 2007, inter alia, set a new election date for 12 April 2008. The Secretary-General informed the Security Council about the request of the Government of Nepal for a six-month extension of the UNMIN mandate from 23 January 2008 (S/2007/789) and, subsequently, in its resolution 1796 (2008), the Security Council decided to extend the UNMIN mandate for six months.

27. Paragraphs 48 to 58 of the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512/Add.6) provide information on the Mission's activities, including areas of operational cooperation between UNMIN and the United Nations country team. The Committee also notes that the Department of Political Affairs provides substantive guidance to the Mission and the Department of Field Support provides it with operational support (ibid., para. 55).

28. The Committee notes the Secretary-General's indication that, given the UNMIN mandate, the outlook for the Mission depends critically upon the timing of the Constituent Assembly election. If the election is held in April 2008, the electoral component of the Mission can be phased out by the end of the current mandate (July 2008). The duration of other components of the Mission, notably the monitoring of arms and armed personnel, would have to be determined in consultation with the Government of Nepal (A/62/512/Add.6, para. 58).

## B. Resource requirements

29. The total resource requirements proposed for the United Nations Mission in Nepal from 1 January to 31 December 2008 are estimated at $56,414,500 net ($60,018,500 gross). In this connection, the Committee recalls that, in its resolution 62/238, the General Assembly included a provision of $16,117,800 to cover one month of regular operations and six months of liquidation activities for the Mission. However, given the decision in Security Council resolution 1796 (2008), the planning assumptions have been revised. The proposed budget in the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512/Add.6) includes resources of $43,933,600 for the maintenance of the Mission for a seven-month period from 1 January to 31 July 2008, to be followed by a five-month liquidation phase, between 1 August and 31 December 2008, for which resources are estimated at $12,480,900. Given the resources already approved for UNMIN in General Assembly resolution 62/238 ($16,117,800), the additional proposed requirements for the Mission would amount to $40,236,700.

30. The Committee was informed that the revised budget proposal incorporates lessons and experience from its operation in 2007 and the Mission's accomplishments, as reflected in the nationalization of posts, the redeployment of posts to areas where staffing needs were initially underestimated, the consolidation of functions and the use of electoral consultancies to provide short-term specialized advice to the Election Commission.

31. The resources proposed provide for the costs of military and police personnel ($3,092,000), including requirements related to 155 military arms monitors and 7 police advisers; civilian personnel costs ($25,476,700) relating to a staffing component of 887 civilian staff (263 international, 385 national and 239 United Nations Volunteers positions) and operational costs ($27,845,800). This reflects a net decrease of $32,407,500 compared to the resources approved for 2007, mostly related to reductions under operational costs ($31,870,200) and military and police personnel, offset by an increase under civilian personnel costs ($1,575,400).

## 1. Civilian personnel

| *Positions* | *Number* | *Level* |
|---|---|---|
| Approved initial positions for 2007 | 918 | 1 USG; 1 ASG; 7 D-1; 16 P-5; 41 P-4; 102 P-3; 12 P-2; 91 FS; 258 UNV; 49 NO; 340 LL |
| Vacant positions as at 29 February 2008 | 159 | 3 D-1; 2 P-5; 14 P-4; 20 P-3; 2 P-2; 16 FS; 45 UNV; 2 NO; 55 LL |
| Proposed positions for 2008 | 887 | 1 USG; 1 ASG; 7 D-1; 16 P-5; 43 P-4; 83 P-3; 13 P-2; 99 FS; 239 UNV; 61 NO; 324 LL |
| New positions | 15 | 1 P-4; 1 P-3; 1 P-2; 12 NO |
| Abolitions | 46[a] | 8 P-3; 3 FS; 19 UNV; 16 LL |
| Redeployments | 33 | 3 FS; 28 LL; 2 UNV |
| Reclassifications | 12 | 1 P-3 to P-4; 11 P-3 to FS |

[a] All 887 positions will be gradually phased out by the end of 2008; substantive personnel will be repatriated after July 2008 and remaining administrative staff will be phased out during the liquidation period from 1 August to 31 December 2008.

## 2. Comments and recommendations on positions

32. The staffing costs of $25,476,700 proposed for 2008 reflect the proposed net decrease of 31 positions for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008 (see table above). This includes the proposed addition of 15 positions (3 international and 12 national) (see paras. 33-37 below), offset by the proposal to abolish 46 positions (see table above). Two reclassifications are also proposed (see paras. 38 and 39 below) as well as several redeployments among sections, which are described in the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512/Add.6). The staffing table for UNMIN in the Secretary-General's report provides the envisaged phased changes in the staffing component. The Committee notes that it is planned to phase out the substantive mission component by the end of July 2008 and that remaining administrative staff will gradually phase out during the liquidation period from 1 August to 31 December 2008. A vacancy factor of 20 per cent during the operational phase and of 10 per cent during the liquidation has been applied to the requirements for international staff. Vacancy factors of 15 and 20 per cent, respectively, have been applied to the provisions for national staff and for United Nations Volunteers.

33. **The Committee questions the request for new positions at this juncture, particularly given the vacancy situation shown in the table above and the length of time it normally takes to recruit personnel. The Committee also points out that elections are scheduled to take place in mid-April, following which the Mission plans to completely phase out the substantive component by the end of July 2008.** The Committee was informed that the average recruitment time for a selected external candidate is approximately eight weeks from the day the programme manager receives the shortlist of recommended candidates, while the average recruitment time for a selected internal candidate is approximately five weeks. **Taking these observations into consideration, the Committee**

**recommends that some of the new proposed positions be accommodated through redeployment and the flexible use of vacant positions.**

*New positions*

34. Two positions are proposed in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for an Interpreter (P-2) and an HIV/AIDS Assistant (National Officer) (A/62/512/Add.6, paras. 68 and 69). The Committee notes that the demand for translation has far exceeded what was anticipated in 2007 and that an international interpreter is requested in view of the sensitive issues handled in high-level consultations. **The Committee recognizes the need for a position (P-2) for an Interpreter as proposed by the Secretary-General and considers that the function should be provided from within existing capacity or through redeployment. The Committee is not convinced, however, that the additional HIV/AIDS Assistant position (National Officer) is required at this late stage of the Mission.**

35. A position (P-4) is proposed in the Office of Political Affairs for a Joint Mission Analysis Cell Officer (ibid., para. 72). The Committee notes that the United Nations peacekeeping policy directives require mission budgets to provide for this function. However, the Committee was informed that these directives are discretionary, rather than mandatory, for special political missions. **The Committee recommends against the approval of the Joint Mission Analysis Cell Officer position (P-4), given the timing of the proposal and the plan to repatriate substantive staff by the end of July 2008.**

36. Eleven positions (National Officers) are proposed in the Civil Affairs Office for 10 Outreach and Monitoring Officers and one Social Affairs Officer (ibid., paras. 76-79). The 10 Outreach and Monitoring Officer positions are proposed to be deployed between regional offices and headquarters to substitute for five international staff and five United Nations Volunteer positions proposed to be abolished, in line with the Mission's strategy to nationalize staff and build national capacity. **The Committee recommends approval of the 10 positions (National Officer) proposed for Outreach and Monitoring Officers to replace the existing international positions, in view of the importance of capacity-building, and of the position (National Officer) for the Social Affairs Officer, in view of its focus on national-level activities in connection with issues related to the peace process.**

37. A position (P-3) is proposed in the Medical Section for a Medical Officer (ibid., paras. 81 and 82). **In view of the lateness of the proposal and the plan to maintain the operational level of the Mission only until the end of July 2008, the Committee recommends against approval of this post. The functions should be provided for from within existing capacity.**

*Reclassifications*

38. A P-3 position for a Special Assistant in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General is proposed to be upgraded to the P-4 level (ibid., para. 70). The proposal is made on the basis of experience on the scale of responsibilities and the need for a requisite level of seniority to carry out the tasks involved, as well as experience during the past year of operation. **The Committee**

**has no objection to the proposed reclassification for the Special Assistant in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General.**

39. Eleven positions are proposed to be reclassified from the P-3 level to the Field Service level: one Claims Officer position in the Property Management Section (para. 83), five positions in the Logistics Support Centre (para. 91), five positions in the Safety and Security Section (para. 90). The Mission is proposing to convert these positions on the basis of mission experience and its conclusion that the functions are more appropriately performed by a Field Service staff member. **The Advisory Committee agrees with the proposal to reclassify these 11 positions to the Field Service level.**

### 3. Operational costs

40. The proposed requirements for operational costs for UNMIN for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008 are estimated at $27,845,800. This reflects a decrease of $31,870,200 compared to the resources provided for 2007, mostly due to a reduction in requirements for equipment and materiel which was procured in 2007. The Committee notes, however, that the provision includes an amount of $942,200 for non-recurrent requirements. These are mostly related to the proposed purchase of equipment under information technology ($659,400) and facilities and infrastructure ($166,000). The Committee was informed that unreliable power sources and frequent power outages in the Mission area had caused the early breakdown of some equipment (desktops, monitors and laptops) that must now be replaced. **Based on the explanation provided, the Committee recommends approval of these resources and also recommends that steps be taken to mitigate such risks in future.**

## VI. United Nations Political Office in Somalia

### A. Mandate and planned results

41. Paragraphs 92 to 113 of the Secretary-General's report provide background information on the situation in Somalia and the mandate of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), as well as its current activities and interaction with the United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other entities. The Committee recalls that, in his letter dated 24 December 2007 (S/2007/762), the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that he would assess further measures to strengthen UNPOS to fulfil its enhanced role, including the possibility of relocation from Nairobi to Mogadishu and any security measures that might be necessary for such a move, as requested in Security Council resolution 1772 (2007), and that, in this regard, he was preparing a revised budget that would be finalized in the first quarter of 2008. The President of the Security Council subsequently informed the Secretary-General (S/2007/763) that the Council had taken note of the information and of the intention expressed in his letter.

42. The Committee notes that, because of the security situation, UNPOS was not able to relocate to Somalia in 2007. Four of the five offices planned inside Somalia (Baidoa, Mogadishu, Kismaayo and Hargeysa) have been established, with the presence of one national staff in each. It is planned to strengthen these offices incrementally. The Committee was informed that the Department of Safety and

Security has been requested to assess the security situation in Somalia in order to allow for a phased relocation.

43. The Committee further notes that, in paragraph 1 of its resolution 1801 (2008), the Security Council decided to renew the authorization of Member States of the African Union to maintain the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for a further period for six months to carry out the mandate set out in paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1772 (2007). In paragraph 6, the Security Council further indicated that it looked forward to receiving the Secretary-General's imminent report, including on specific options to strengthen the ability of UNPOS, to further support the full deployment of AMISOM and to prepare for the possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force to succeed AMISOM. The Committee notes that the Secretary-General has responded to that request (see S/2008/178).

## B. Resource requirements

44. The Committee recalls that requirements for UNPOS for the period 1 January to 31 December 2008 were included in the Secretary-General's earlier report on the requirements for special political missions (A/62/512 and Add.3). In view of the developments outlined above, the Secretary-General has submitted revised estimates for UNPOS for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008 (A/62/512/Add.6).

45. The Committee recalls that, in its resolution 62/238, the General Assembly included a provision of $7,841,600 for UNPOS for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008 on the basis of the Secretary-General's proposals (see A/62/512 and Add.3 and para. 41 above). The revised estimated requirements for UNPOS for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008, as presented in the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512/Add.6), amount to $16,233,800 (an increase of $9,473,900 over the resources approved for 2007). Given the resources already approved in resolution 62/238, additional resources of $8,392,200 would be required.

46. The proposed revised resources for 2008 would provide for civilian personnel costs ($7,105,300), including a staffing component of 72 civilian staff (44 international and 28 national positions) and operational costs ($9,128,500).

### 1. Civilian personnel

| *Positions* | *Number* | *Level* |
|---|---|---|
| Approved initial positions for 2007 | 39 | 1 USG; 1 D-1; 3 P-5; 5 P-4; 4 P-3; 6 FS; 4 GS (OL); 7 NO; 8 LL |
| Vacant positions as at 29 February 2008 | 7 | 1 D-1; 3 FS; 3 NO |
| Proposed positions for 2008 | 72 | 1 USG; 1 D-2; 1 D-1; 7 P-5; 9 P-4; 9 P-3; 12 FS; 4 GS (OL); 12 NO; 16 LL |
| New positions | 32 | 4 P-5; 4 P-4; 5 P-3; 6 FS; 5 NO; 8 LL |

| *Positions* | *Number* | *Level* |
|---|---|---|
| Abolitions | — | — |
| Redeployments | — | — |
| Reclassifications | 1 | D-1 to D-2 |

**2. Comments and recommendations on posts**

47. The staffing costs of $7,105,300 provide for a staffing component of 72 positions (an increase of 32), including 44 international positions (28 Professional, 12 Field Service and 4 General Service) and of 28 national positions (12 National Officers and 16 Local level) (see paras. 48-57 below). One reclassification is also proposed (see para. 58 below). The Committee notes that the staffing costs provide for six months in Nairobi and six months in Mogadishu. The Committee was informed that the staffing requirements take into account vacancy factors of 4 per cent for international and 3 per cent for national staff for continuing posts, and vacancy factors of 20 per cent for international and 8 per cent for national staff for new posts.

*New positions*

48. Four positions (1 P-5, 1 P-3, 2 FS) in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General are proposed as follows:

(a) One P-5 position for a Legal Officer (A/62/512/Add.6, para. 119);

(b) One Field Service position for a Legal/Administrative Assistant (ibid., para. 120);

(c) One P-3 position for a Public Information Officer (ibid., paras. 121 and 122);

(d) One Field Service position for a Close Protection Officer (ibid., para. 123).

49. Seven positions (1 D-1, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 FS, 2 NO) in the Office of Political Affairs are proposed as follows (ibid., para. 125):

(a) One D-1 position for a Chief Political Affairs Officer;

(b) Five positions (1 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 NO) for Political Affairs Officers;

(c) One Field Service position for an Administrative Assistant.

50. Two positions (1 P-3, 1 NO) in the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Unit for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Officers are proposed (ibid., para. 126).

51. Two positions in the Human Rights Unit for a Senior Human Rights Officer (P-5) and a Human Rights Assistant (Local level) are proposed (ibid., paras. 127-129).

52. Two positions in the Humanitarian and Development Affairs Unit for a Senior Humanitarian and Development Officer (P-5) and a Humanitarian and Development Officer (National Officer) are proposed (ibid., paras. 130 and 131).

53. Two positions (1 P-4, 1 P-3) in the Civil Affairs and Electoral Unit are proposed (ibid., paras. 132 and 133).

54. Two positions (1 P-4, 1 NO) in the Gender Affairs Unit for Gender Advisers are proposed (ibid., paras. 134 and 135).

55. Eleven positions (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 3 FS, 6 LL) are proposed to strengthen the Administration of UNPOS in view of the staffing increases and enhanced mandate, as follows:

(a) One position (P-5) for a Senior Administrative Officer (ibid., para. 137);

(b) One position (Field Service) for a Communications Technician (ibid., para. 138);

(c) One position (Field Service) for a Security Officer (ibid., para. 139);

(d) Four positions (Local level) for Drivers (ibid., para. 142);

(e) Two positions (Local level) for Administrative Assistants (ibid., paras. 140 and 141);

(f) Two positions to establish a dedicated Finance Section for a Chief Finance Officer (P-4) and a Cashier (Field Service) (ibid., paras. 143-146). UNPOS currently relies on UNDP for the management of its funds. In order to reduce current lags in the management and administration of its resources, it is proposed to establish a dedicated Finance Section. The two additional positions proposed would be combined with two existing Finance positions within Administration (1 P-3, 1 Field Service), as well as two Finance Assistants (Local level) positions, which would be accommodated through change of functions (ibid., para. 146).

**56. The Committee notes the Secretary-General's view that recent developments in Somalia present a unique opportunity for the United Nations to provide enhanced political support to the peace process. The Committee, however, is equally aware of the complex security situation on the ground, which precludes UNPOS from relocating to Somalia at this time. Given the experience in 2007, it is therefore difficult to ascertain, at this point, when it will be possible for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his team to eventually relocate from Nairobi to Somalia. As indicated in paragraph 42 above, the Department of Safety and Security has been requested to assess the security situation in Somalia, the outcome of which would be taken into account in the envisaged phased relocation. In this connection, the Committee stresses the need to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel and to ensure that conditions permit them to carry out their work. The Committee trusts that the structure of the Mission will be kept under review in the light of experience gained. The Committee requests that the recruitment of new staff be evaluated in the context of the security situation in Somalia and that their deployment be based on operational requirements.**

**57. The Committee has no objection to the budgetary proposals of the Secretary-General. However, in view of the observations provided in paragraph 56 above, the Committee considers it unlikely that the totality of resources requested can be fully utilized. The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General provide directly to the General Assembly, at the time of its consideration of the Secretary-General's report, any updated information on**

**the financial requirements for 2008, so as to enable the General Assembly to make a fully informed decision.**

*Reclassification*

58. The D-1 position of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General is proposed for reclassification to the D-2 level (see A/62/512/Add.6, para. 124). **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed reclassification, the Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General.**

**3. Operational costs**

59. The proposed requirements for operational costs for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008 amount to $9,128,500. The Committee notes that the provision proposed includes an amount of $2,695,400 for non-recurrent requirements. These are mostly related to requirements for communications equipment ($1,481,600) for the purchase of satellite and telephone related equipment in order to establish a communications network in Somalia. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the need for an improved communication network was based on security concerns whereby all movement of personnel must meet the Minimum Operational Security Standard. In addition, mobile networks are unreliable and the confidentiality of communication is important in that environment. A provision of $542,000 is also included for the acquisition of one sedan, two armoured vehicles and 12 4x4 vehicles to be used in Nairobi and Somalia, including related freight costs.

60. Resources of $1,953,200 are proposed for air transportation. The Committee was informed that there is no reliable or United Nations recognized commercial airline operating in or to Somalia, resulting in the need to use United Nations aircraft. In addition, it is foreseen that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General will be travelling at least twice a month to Somalia, mainly on short notice, and that, with the planned expansion of UNPOS, there will be an increase in staff travelling to and from Somalia. The costs of the rental of fixed-wing aircraft and related costs ($1,756,800) are estimated on the basis of the foreseen requirements of four flights per week to Somalia, at an average flight time of five hours per flight. **If UNPOS is eventually relocated to Somalia, however, the Committee expects that some savings could be realized.**

61. **The Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposal (see also para. 57 above).**

## VII. Recommendation

62. **With regard to the Secretary-General's proposal for action to be taken by the General Assembly, as set out in paragraph 147 of his report (A/62/512/Add.6), the Advisory Committee recommends that:**

(a) **With regard to the additional requirements for the special political missions in the Secretary-General's report (A/62/512/Add.6), the General Assembly approve the resources requested by the Secretary-General, subject to its observations and recommendation as set out above. The Committee requests**

**that the adjusted amount be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals;**

**(b) The General Assembly take note that part of the additional requirements would be met from the balances of $17,322,800 in the overall provision for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;**

**(c) Taking into account the recommendations contained in paragraph 62 (a) and (b) above, the General Assembly appropriate the adjusted resources under section 3, Political affairs, and under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.**